

PRISON REFORM.

Equality of Punishment So Harped on by the Press.

WHAT, IN REALITY, IT MEANS.

The Case of Captain Carter Taken as a Sample. The Viciousness of Following Men Inside the Walls and Persecuting Them Because They Cannot Help Being Gentleman and Prominent Before They Fell.

Thirteenth Paper.

The writer of the following was sentenced to life imprisonment in the Ohio Penitentiary for fighting a street duel in which the defender of his family was killed. Pardoned after eight years imprisonment, he proposes in the columns of the globe to tell "a plain, unvarnished tale" of life in a modern penitentiary.

In last week's paper, we gave space to Senator Dietrich's views of Federal control of penitentiaries, and the utilization of convicts to reclaim the barren lands in the Western States and Territories.

The Senator's most views are not original, despite his experience in the swamps of Arkansas and Mississippi. The English government experimented with this idea of populating the wastes and arid plains of Australia with their convicts, but the English adopted more humane methods than those suggested by Senator Dietrich. The convicts were not surrounded with a picket of mounted soldiers to shoot them if they attempted to escape, but after a probationary period were permitted to become actual, bona fide settlers of the land they were reclaiming, and were aided by the government, which had expatriated them, in doing so. They were permitted to bring their wives and children from England, if they had any, or they were furnished wives from the female convict prison as they entered the new system. The convict who owed his downfall to the wife of his bosom, got rid of her cheaply even in some instances. His new wife put on no frills and buckled down with him to the creation of both a home and family. The consequence may be seen in the empty settlements of Australia, the richest and proudest families among its population being descendants of these convicts. The American mind can apparently conceive of no advancement or reform if the dollar isn't seen sticking right out of the movement, and hence the hapless wretches whose names or in many cases somebody else's crimes, have been the cause of their imprisonment behind stone walls are to be utilized to reclaim the barren lands and arid wastes for—somebody else. It could never strike the mind of a practical American, even the most advanced, to adopt this British system of providing homes, lands and wives for the American convicts. And yet, it was a paying investment for England. She built up a magnificent empire in the Antipodes from which much solid and honest millions of profits on her investments resulted, besides solving the then problem of her over-crowded prisons and her sparsely settled colonies.

The Senator makes a general error of confounding all first offenders under the one blanket, manual labor head, nor does he make any allowance for the professional and skilled artisan convict. He dumps them all as laborers, black and white, intellectual and physical, refined and coarse, married and single, native and foreigner, old and young, and in many cases somebody else's crimes, have been the cause of their imprisonment behind stone walls are to be utilized to reclaim the barren lands and arid wastes for—somebody else. It could never strike the mind of a practical American, even the most advanced, to adopt this British system of providing homes, lands and wives for the American convicts. And yet, it was a paying investment for England. She built up a magnificent empire in the Antipodes from which much solid and honest millions of profits on her investments resulted, besides solving the then problem of her over-crowded prisons and her sparsely settled colonies.

When the Philippine islands fell into the hands of the United States it was proposed to send our convicts there, and a symposium of opinions were published concerning the scheme from all the leading penitentiologists in the United States. The consensus of expert opinion was to the effect that convicts with their families willing to expatriate themselves and commence life in this new country should be permitted to emigrate and that prisoners aid societies and kindred philanthropic organizations should address themselves to the task of aiding and encouraging ex-convicts to find homes in these island possessions, where they might begin the battle of life anew, free from the handicap which ever clings to them in the country of their birth. It is true that long confinement behind the walls of a prison enervates and unmans the best of men and but a few choice spirits out of the thousands subjected to the maddening tortures are ever able to shake off the awful effects, mentally and physically, which are the concomitants of "life behind the walls." It is equally true that fewer still have ever or will ever be reformed, if they needed reforming, when immured, by this species of disciplinary punishment. But, as stated in these papers, the accidental convict, in any case, needs no reforming. His one crime was his first and will be his last, irrespective of the period of his imprisonment. This fact society recognizes and its mouthpieces, the press, makes a tacit admission of the fact when it howls, as it persistently does, against pardons, commutations or even humane treatment for the fallen banker, merchant, farmer, ex-officer or others who, up to the commission of their one crime were the peers and more often the superiors financially, socially and intellectually of the wretched, even ignorant scoundrels who, ghoul-like, follow them into the interior of the prison and object to any "favors" being shown them. No such objections are filed against the burglar or horse-thief, and professional criminals of this class may be pardoned, socially and financially, as they are—without a protest from the press. But, let an ex-banker or prominent citizen, who has fallen, have any favors shown by the officials or be pardoned, commuted or paroled, every miserably penny-linger in the press wags his inky tail and yelps himself into spasms.

Take the case of Capt. Oberlin Carter, the ex-military officer in Leavenworth penitentiary as a sample. This

unfortunate soldier and gentleman who has all his life associated with the cream of the very best elements of society, suddenly finds himself subjected to a discipline primarily devised for criminals by instinct, practice and choice, whose associations have from their birth been of unspokeable villainess. And because the prison officials, who are generally callous to these things, are touched by the gentlemanly dignity and irrepressible breeding of this fallen man, they suffer not only the physical discipline provided for the government of criminals, but undergoes mental tortures these criminals have no conception of and are free from, the press jumps with both feet upon the prison management for showing the unfortunate officer some favors not prescribed by the rules, but which are not prohibited and are left discretionary with the warden and his guards.

Here is an extract from the vile screed going the rounds of the press, touching this matter: "If common report is to be trusted, a scandal of considerable moment is brewing at Fort Leavenworth, that may result in the degradation of the physical discipline provided for the government of criminals, but undergoes mental tortures these criminals have no conception of and are free from, the press jumps with both feet upon the prison management for showing the unfortunate officer some favors not prescribed by the rules, but which are not prohibited and are left discretionary with the warden and his guards."

"It is alleged, among other things, that while the poor devils who are serving time for minor offenses are treated like slaves, the ex-officer, who was convicted of the greatest thievery in the annals of the Government service, is enjoying a remarkable measure of liberty; that he plays golf with other attaches of the place; that his cell has been made more comfortable by the mysterious touch of unknown hands, and that the star prisoner does not subsist upon the homely prison fare allotted to other convicts, but is secretly supplied with extra food and dainties, apparently from some officers' headquarters. All this, of course, is not done openly, and the appearance of unprejudiced treatment of Carter is kept on his face, but the other prisoners were slow to grasp the situation, and their grumblings have finally led one of them with more nerve than the rest to make an open complaint. His charges have been forwarded to the department of justice at Washington."

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"SYMMES' HOLE."

The Theory of Captain Symmes on the Earth's Hollowness.

INTERIOR OF THIS EARTHLY SHELL

Inhabited, and the Discoverer of the Poles can Steer Safely Through from End to End. Many Facts Cited in Symmes Book which go to Prove His Theory—Timely Article on Polar Expeditions.

Who has not heard of "Symmes' Hole?" There is no Ohio man, at least, in ignorance of Captain Symmes and his celebrated theory of the hollowness of the earth. Scientists have heard and laughed over this theory, that by boring deep enough the earth could be holed at any point in the habitable or uninhabitable globe. To demonstrate this theory the equator was drilled, and it was believed that Captain Symmes undertook to bore such a hole, which became known as "Symmes' Folly." Of course no such hole was ever drilled or attempted to be drilled by Captain Symmes. The Captain did publish a little book, however, which was ridiculed, and which no doubt formed the basis of all the misinformation published in the press for the past half a century. The title of the book is "Symmes' Theory of Concentric Spheres," demonstrating that the earth is hollow, and that the poles are not at the ends of the earth, but at the point furthest from the equator, is directly opposite the lowest point of the south pole, or the point nearest the equator. The shell of the earth is about one thousand miles thick, and the edges of this shell, as the openings are called, verges and measure from the regular concavity within to the regular convexity without about fifteen hundred miles. The verges thus occupy nearly 25 degrees, and if delineated on a map would show only the outer half of the verges, about 12 1/2 degrees north and south, would lie on the apex and within the verge. All the polar regions on the present map would be out of sight. The meridian lines extend at right angles from the equator, and these wind along the surface of the verges, terminating at the points directly under the highest part of the verges both north and south.

(To be continued.)

THE BEARD OF OLD.

Romans Did Not Shave Clean Until Past 40 Years Old.

In Cicero's time and after (possibly also before, many men wore beards, and only men over 40 were clean shaven. Spartianus speaks of Hadrian as wearing a full beard to cover scars upon his face. Dio Cassius also speaks of him as the "first" to wear a beard. He is not the first emperor whose bust shows him to have allowed the hair upon his face to grow, but he is the first one represented as wearing a beard. Evidently, therefore, Hadrian did not introduce beards, but only the custom of wearing them long and full. On Trajan's column there is a representation of the emperor sacrificing at an altar; many of the men who appear in the scene are bearded, but by no means all of them. Again, we find a scene wherein the seated emperor is surrounded by attendants, some of whom are bearded. In still another group Trajan is standing with a roll in his hand, addressing his men, and again we see both bearded and beardless men among those who stand before him. On the rectangular reliefs of the arch of Constantine we find that the men accompanying Trajan are bearded, even when he and they are clad in the toga. The area at Beneventum shows in the same group lectors and comites both as bearded and beardless.

Say, you, smoke Carolina Brigs

Outrageous.

Gattsville, Md., July 22, 1901. Error Globe: Will you kindly inform me what is the rate of legal interest allowed to a mortgage loan company doing business in Washington? I refer to the loan companies giving loans on furniture and household goods. The reason for my asking is this: I know a widow who got a loan of \$40 on her furniture, and she was required to sign a contract to pay off twelve notes of \$6.15 each. The \$6.15 to be paid each month. She has already paid off ten of these, and holds the receipt for the remaining payments are not made. Can they do it under the laws of the District?

I must explain that when the loan was taken she had a good position, and saw her way clear to pay out, but was soon after discharged, and found it impossible to keep up the payments. But with sewing a few days at this and that place, at 75 cents and sometimes a dollar per day, and half starving herself and going half clothed, being threatened and dogged by the company if she fell behind, a few days or weeks, she managed to make all the last two payments, which the company say must be made in August. I am not writing this for publication, but merely to explain the circumstances in the case, and get the desired information in next Sunday's Globe, not only for my own benefit but for others in Washington who might have fallen into the clutches of these relentless grabbers. The name of the firm referred to is the Columbia Loan and Guarantee Company, on F Street N. W., between Sixth and Seventh streets. If they are doing unlawful business in charging such a premium on money, I hope you will give them such a roast and expose that they will be compelled to go out of business.

Respectfully, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Bag Repair Shop.

Washington, D. C., July 23, 1901. Error of This Globe: In reply to Mr. Moffatt's answer to the "Mail Bag Repair Shop," I see that he does not say that the ladies earn any more than 60 cents per day. Mr. Moffatt is a laborer on the first floor who lays down and takes a sleep every day. He is paid by the month, and not on piece work. The superintendent has taken 25 cents a day off the women since the first of July. If you belong to the Maryland Republican Club you are O. K. I hear that McKim's brother has got the best of the Jew in New York. Look out for yourself. The men have to move to Maryland in order to hold their jobs. You may bet that some one else wrote that letter for Moffatt. He does not know anything about the ladies. Please look me up, but you can do for them. They will bless you.

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The Arena Company Offers 50,000 Shares at 50 Cents Each IN A PROPERTY THAT IS WORTH OVER \$600,000

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AZTEC, 210 feet in depth, with shaft-house, boiler and engine for hoisting, well timbered all the way down. BONDHOLDER, 250 feet deep, hoisting engine and boiler, large iron shaft-house MEXICO AND MANHATTAN, both over 100 feet deep, on same vein as the Aztec mine. CRYSTAL, JASPER, AND GREAT EASTERN, on the same vein as the Bondholder, and opened in depth to over 100 feet, and developments already made show over 4,000 feet of ore.

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